AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-28. (Canceled)

Claim 29. (Currently Amended)

A charging apparatus for connecting to a communication apparatus, said communication apparatus performing data communication via a communication channel connected to a computer, said communication channel being used to make the connection between said charging apparatus and said communication apparatus, said communication channel including a communication line for data communication and a power supply line for supplying electric power, and said charging apparatus comprising a charging circuit for applying electric power, with which it is supplied through said power supply line from said computer via said communication channel, to a connector of a data processing unit driven by a battery installed in said data processing unit, the data processing unit being formed to have said connector in order to input electric power for charging the battery, and said data processing unit being freely attachable and detachable to said connector of said charging apparatus.

Claims 30-33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Currently Amended)

A method of charging a battery using a charging apparatus connected to a communication apparatus, which is capable of performing data communication via a

communication channel connected to a computer, and using said communication channel to make a connection wherein:

said communication channel includes a communication line for data communication and a power supply line for supplying electric power,

said method comprising the steps of:

applying electric power, supplied through said power supply line from said computer via said communication channel, to a connector of a data processing unit driven by a battery installed in said data processing unit,

forming the data processing unit to have said connector in order to input electric power for charging the battery, and

charging said battery by the electric power applied.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 34, wherein the communication channel is a cable in accordance with IEEE 1394.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 34, wherein the power supply line is connected to a monitoring circuit for monitoring the electric power supplied through said power supply line.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 34, wherein the data processing unit is a digital camera.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 34, wherein the data processing unit is freely attachable and detachable to said connector of the charging apparatus.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented)

The charging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the communication channel is a cable in accordance with IEEE 1394.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented)

The charging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the power supply line is connected to a monitoring circuit for monitoring the electric power supplied through said power supply line.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented)

The charging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the data processing unit is a digital camera.

Claim 42. (New)

The charging apparatus of claim 29, wherein within the charging apparatus the power supply capability of said computer is compared with the power consumption by said charging apparatus, such that said battery will be charged by said charging circuit only if said power supply exceeds a determined maximum power consumption.